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# The Bahama Journal

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# DAMES BOASTS "CRIME DOWN"

BY LEAH COOPER  
 Journal Staff Writer

Minister of National Security Marvin Dames yesterday boasted in crime taking a dive during his tenure in office during his contribution to the budget debate in the House of Assembly.

He said for the first quarter of 2019 overall crime was down by seven per cent compared to how the numbers stacked up last year the same period last year.

Min. Dames said, "the Bahamian people would recall that, for the first time in nearly a decade, the murder count in The Bahamas did not exceed the 100-mark last year.

"This was primarily as a result of a number of new and timely policy directives, combined with

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▶ Minister of National Security, the Hon. Marvin Dames

## POLICE PROBE SECURITY OFFICER'S MURDER

BY LICEC BASTIAN  
 Journal Staff Writer

A Commonwealth Brewery security officer's life was taken when he was killed following an armed robbery in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Police are now looking

into the circumstances surrounding the armed robbery turned homicide.

According to police reports, shortly after 12:00 mid-night Tuesday, three security officers were on duty at a wholesale wine and spirits coming

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## PLP ACCUSED OF POLITICIZING LABOUR DAY

BY LISA KNOWLES  
 Journal Staff Writer

The Free National Movement (FNM) has accused the Opposition Progressive Liberal Party of politicizing Labour day. Saying that the PLP

was reckless in doing so, the governing party in a statement yesterday said that the PLP is out of touch with the people of The Bahamas.

"From day one, the

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## Construction Delays Cost Bahamians Millions

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

The delay in the construction of the Ministry of National Security's new headquarters on John F. Kennedy Drive is said to illustrate the lethargic, convoluted and mysterious manner in which the former administration awarded and executed contracts, according to National Security Minister Marvin Dames.

Mr. Dames said that upon coming to office, an assessment of the property revealed that the project was plagued with incomplete and shoddy workmanship.

"In 2018 a new contractor was hired to correct the work and develop the Annex at the rear of the complex.

"These delays will end up costing the Bahamian taxpayers \$40 million. The budget for the original scope of works was \$26 million," he said.

The Minister told members of the House of Assembly in his contribution to the budget debate, "I am now being told that we can expect to move into the building sometime during the last quarter

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## CENTENARIAN RECEIVES WARM WELCOME AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



▶ Centenarian Mrs. Julia Huyler and family paid a courtesy call upon Governor General Her Excellency the Most Hon. Dame Marguerite Pindling at Government House, June 5, 2019 on the occasion of Mrs. Huyler's 100th birthday. (BIS Photos/Letisha Henderson)

## PM EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO THE RAMSEY AND JOHN FAMILIES

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
 Journal Staff Writer

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis in a statement late yesterday evening extending his deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families of Bahamians Alrae Ramsey and Blair John, who was found dead in a lake in Turin, Italy.

The Prime Minister noted that he spoke with both families this past weekend, assuring them that the government is doing everything it can to ensure that the remains of

■ See page 4...



▶ Prime Minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis



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ALL THE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ IN THE MORNING

# FLAMINGO GARDENS CLINIC TEMPORARILY CLOSED

BY BERTHONY MCDERMOTT  
Journal Staff Writer

The Ministry of Health advising the general public of the closure of its Flamingo Gardens Health Facility, Carmichael Road. However the facility is expected to reopen today,

according to Health Minister Dr. Duane Sands who added that the reason for the temporary closure is to protect both staff and patients.

“There is a problem with the choice of paint used for the repairs and renovations. They used an oil based paint and the

problem is that the fumes are unfortunately creating a challenge.”

“A similar type of paint was used on another area last week and unfortunate a number of staff members had challenges with inhalation,” the Health Minister said.

Clients and patients of

the antenatal clinic scheduled for follow up services at Flamingo Gardens Clinic are advised to attend the South Beach Health Center, East Street South at their usual appointment times.

Other clients in the Flamingo Gardens health

district in need of non-emergency services are asked to visit the Elizabeth Estates, South Beach or Fleming Street Clinics until services are resumed at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic.

The public and residents of the Flamingo Gardens Clinic district

are further advised that the hours of operations at those clinic are 9am to 9pm.

According to Dr. Sands, his Ministry conducted an assessment yesterday evening to determine if the clinic would be able to reopen today.

# DAMES FIRES BACK AT OPPOSITION

BY LEAH COOPER  
Journal Staff Writer

National Security Minister Marvin Dames

fired back at The Opposition's scathing criticisms of the 2019/2020 budget this afternoon accusing them

of appealing to the elite in the country and taxing the poor people.

In his address last week Opposition

Spokesman on Finance Chester Cooper noted as much adding that this is a budget of special interest.

Mr. Dames said that the shelf life of these political talking points have long passed and there is no place for this

kind of rhetoric in a modern Bahamas.

He said, “they continue to say that they are the government of the poor, yet they have done nothing to raise Bahamians out of poverty. Fact be told, when you look around at many of them who have been at the forefront of the party; they have done extremely well for themselves and their families.

“With boarding schools, palatial residences out east and west, and overseas maids and butlers, surely they were not a government of the people. In fact, this was the government of special interests.”

Mr. Dames also accused the previous administration of being good on talk, but poor on substance.

He said, “while they dined on lobster and caviar, and sipped on Dom Perignon; the poor man's struggles continue after decades of undelivered promises from the side opposite.

“With dilapidated and squandered living conditions, decades of abandonment, outside toilets, and poor infrastructure; yet they are the government of the people? What people?” he asked.



## Request for Expressions of Interest Individual Consultant: Communications Strategist “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas”



The Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of The Bahamas (GoBH) signed the Loan Contract No. 3787/OC-BH for the execution of the investment programme “Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas” 9BH-L1037. The general objective of the Programme is to increase the employability and quality of employment of beneficiaries, by improving access to quality jobs in The Bahamas, with particular emphasis on youth, in three strategic sectors: maritime, medical services and IT/telecommunications. The specific objectives are to: (a) increase relevant skills and employability in productive jobs for Programme beneficiaries; (b) improve the effectiveness of the Public Employment Services (PES); and (c) enhance the capacity of the labour market intelligence system.

The GoBH has designated the Ministry of Labour (MOL) as the Programme Executing Agency (PEA). The MOL will establish a Programme Executing Unit (PEU) within its organizational structure under the Office of the Permanent Secretary. Accordingly, the PEU now invites interested eligible individual consultants to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) indicating qualifications and experience required to provide consulting services of Strategic Communications Consultant. The contract duration for this consultancy is 12 months, renewable annually. This consultancy shall be based in New Providence.

### Main Responsibilities of the Consultancy

The objective of the consultancy is to provide strategic, organizational, and technical direction to the PEU in the development of a Communications Strategy for internal and external stakeholders. The internal audience is comprised of the Ministry of Labour as the Executing Agency, the Project Steering Committee, and members of the Programme Implementation Unit. The external audience includes parents, apprentices, firms, employer groups, academia, training providers, government agencies and civil society among others.

Specific responsibilities and activities are itemized in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this consultancy, which can be accessed via this link, <http://jobseekers.bahamas.gov.bs>.

### Required Qualifications

The consultant must hold a post-graduate degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Communications, Journalism or Public Affairs, or related field. He/she must have a minimum of five years of relevant work experience leading the design and implementation of corporate communications strategies.

The Consultant will have superior planning and logistical skills, with ability to identify resources, address and prioritize a wide range of issues and activities for timely completion, and a proven ability to take initiative and work independently. He/she will be experienced in coordinating strategic communication efforts and/or initiatives, disseminating knowledge, improving visibility, and developing relevant content. Graphic design experience/knowledge is beneficial, as well as competence in storytelling, communication and messaging, writing and editing, media design and development, stakeholder insight and outreach, and marketing.

### Additionally, he/she will be competent in:

- Creative writing, data storytelling techniques, message development, graphic design, digital campaigns, social media.
- Coordination experience among multiple stakeholders. Consultant will need to be able to understand different stakeholders to be able to tailor key messages according to their needs/interests.
- Collaboration, teamwork and inclusion – the Consultant will work cooperatively with others independent of background (gender, ethnic origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, background, perspective) or organizational role, and takes a team based and inclusive approach to projects and decision making.
- Innovation and creativity – The Consultant will develop strategic ideas and solutions through creativity, experimentation, and critical thinking.
- Communication and influence – The Consultant will communicate effectively and leverage relationship and strategies to influence others.
- Client focus – The Consultant will understand client and needs and provide services that meet their expectations for quality and performance.

Expressions of interest should include a cover letter highlighting the consultant's interest in the position, relevant experiences and qualifications, a recent copy of the consultant's curriculum vitae (CV), three written professional references, and a sample of the consultant's technical writing.

Submissions of Expressions of Interest may be submitted by hand to the address below or by email to [skillslabour@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:skillslabour@bahamas.gov.bs), no later than 5.00 p.m. June 14th, 2018.

**Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Labour  
Charlotte House,  
Shirley Street and Charlotte Streets  
Nassau, The Bahamas  
Re: Strategic Communications Consultant, Skills for Current and Future Jobs in The Bahamas**

## TEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER

A nineteen-year old male was yesterday charged before the courts for murder. Javano Hall stood before Chief Magistrate Joy Ann Ferguson-Pratt for the May 30th killing of Shaquille Rolle which took place on Shady Tree Street, Culmersville. He was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Corrections until August 7th. He was represented by Attorney Ian Cargill.

# DAMES BOASTS “CRIME DOWN”

Continued from / PAGE 1...

a clear understanding of strategic goals, followed with sound execution by law enforcement. Thus far for 2019, we are seeing a continuation of this downward trend.”, he added.

The Minister also noted that crimes against the person are down by 16 per cent as a number of prominent offences trended downward including

armed robbery are down by 20 per cent.

He also said that rape is down by 29 per cent, unlawful sexual intercourse is down by three per cent, and robbery is down by nine per cent.

Crimes against the property, he said, are down by five per cent, as a number of offences have decreased including housebreaking which is down by 37 per cent, shop-breaking down by

16 per cent, and stolen vehicles down by 27 per cent.

He said, “It is important to note that despite these significant double-digit decreases in key categories of crimes, the one notable trend that is negatively impacting the overall figures is the category of stealing.”

He added, “The Commissioner has indicated to me that he will be placing a greater empha-

sis on this offence category, with particular focus on the offence of stealing from vehicles, with the hope of bringing the numbers in this category down. The decrease in crime during the first quarter of this year has improved over the same period last year when only a one per cent decrease was observed.”

As of yesterday, there have been 37 murders, a decrease of 21 per cent

compared to the same period in 2018, when 47 murders occurred.

As murder rates have been decreasing, the National Security Minister said, detection rates have been increasing.

As of yesterday, 24 or 65 percent of murders have been detected or solved, which, he said, means that persons have been charged.

He noted that the

decreases and other successes are not occurring by coincidence, but by carefully thought-out and deliberate changes in the way the police force conducts its crime fighting strategies.

Min. Dames also cautioned Bahamians everywhere, that despite the decreases, the government is still a long way from achieving its objective of a crime free Bahamas.

# POLICE PROBE SECURITY OFFICER'S MURDER

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pany on John F. Kennedy Drive, when they were accosted by a group of armed men who held them at bay and robbed them of personal items.

Police said the culprits made good their escape from the property, but not before shooting one of the officers. Paramedics

were called to the scene, attempted to revive the injured man, however he was pronounced dead on the scene. The other two security officers were not injured during this incident.

Commonwealth Brewery Limited has since issued a statement on the incident. “The matter is currently being

investigated by The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) and our thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family during this difficult time,” the statement said.

It advised that the Brewery would re-open today following one day of closure yesterday.

This homicide followed a Nassau Village

killing on Sunday night.

A man was standing in front of his home on Price Street, Nassau Village, when he was approached by occupants of a vehicle,

who opened fired on him, hitting him about the body before speeding away. Paramedics were called to the scene, attempted to revive the

injured man; however, he was pronounced dead on the scene.

Investigations are ongoing in both incidents.

# PLP ACCUSED OF POLITICIZING LABOUR DAY

Continued from / PAGE 1...

Minnis Administration has worked to move The Bahamas forward, reforming dark-age policies left behind by the callously neglectful PLP, while working to make government more efficient and effective for the people. From improving the quality and access to education, securing historic growth and negotiating contracts that will lead to even more jobs; to revamping infrastructure and reducing crime, this government is moving our Nation forward.

“That said, the woeful PLP does everything within their power to keep our country from moving past the archaic policies that turned a blind eye to their obvious corruption and allowed those in power to leverage government to bene-

fit themselves at the people's expense.

“The woeful PLP's Labour Day fiasco is yet another blatant example reminding Bahamians how out of touch they are with them as well as the new expectations of leaders in this country when it comes to the environment and transparency. The criticism our friends on the other side received from a local environmental group is warranted; and while it is a shame, it is no surprise that the PLP would fail to realize the growing expectations for environmental responsibility as they remain out of touch.

“While their neglect of the environment is unfortunate, what's more of a surprise is the PLP's absolute refusal to abstain from campaigning on Labour Day,

which as we've discussed previously, was a request by Sir Randol's wife and appears to be honoured by all except the reckless PLP that perpetually demonstrate a lack of concern for anything or anyone outside their pursuit for power. If the PLP understood that governing was about the people and not about themselves, they would simply make other decisions.

“The FNM is hopeful that the opposition party will exhibit more respect in the future; both to the environment and to our country's timeless traditions. Regardless, the FNM will continue leading by example and will abstain from politics on Labour Day, because Bahamians deserve a government that respects and works for them, not the political elite,” said the FNM statement.



## THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### RE: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FLAMINGO GARDENS CLINIC

The Ministry of Health wishes to advise members of the public, clients and residents of the Flamingo Gardens Health District, that due to unexpected circumstances, all clinic services at the Flamingo Gardens Health Center, Carmichael Road will be temporarily suspended effective Tuesday June 11, 2019 until further notice.

Antenatal Clients scheduled for follow up services tomorrow June 11th at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic, are advised to attend the South Beach Health Center East Street South at their usual appointment times.

Other Clients in the Flamingo Gardens Health District in need of non-emergency services are asked to visit the Elizabeth Estates, South Beach and Fleming Streets Clinics until services are resumed at the Flamingo Gardens Clinic.

The public and residents of the Flamingo Gardens Clinic District, are further advised that the hours of operations at the South Beach Health Center, Elizabeth Estates and Fleming Street is Clinic is 9am to 9pm.

The Ministry of Health apologies for any inconvenience caused and will continue to provide updates.

Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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TIP LINE at 356-7254

# PM EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO THE RAMSEY AND JOHN FAMILIES

Continued from / PAGE 1...

their loved ones are returned home to the Bahamas as soon as possible.

As a father, he said, he cannot imagine the unspeakable pain that the parents of these young men are going through.

From the outset, the statement noted the Prime Minister was in regular communication with Foreign Affairs Minister Darren Henfield, adding that his Ministry and its representatives are carefully and diligently handling this very sensitive matter.

The Prime Minister said he notes the reports received from High Commissioner of The Bahamas to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Ellison Greenslade, which indicated that he is carefully following the investigation into the deaths of

Mr. Ramsey and Mr. John.

High Commissioner Greenslade, a former Commissioner of Police, was dispatched to Italy on Saturday June 8th to make further inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

In a statement late Monday night High

Commissioner Greenslade noted that the autopsy report had been completed however detailed autopsy reports which include toxicology reports will come at a later date.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured the family that they will

continue to provide regular updates to the families and the public on these tragic circumstances.

The Prime Minister's asking the nation to please keep the Ramsey's and John's families in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

# HUNDREDS OF TRAVEL AGENTS VISIT FREEPORT

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – June 10, 2019 – A group of over 200 travel agents converged on Freeport, Grand Bahama over the weekend as part of what The Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line (BPCL) dubbed “The Worlds’s largest Seminar at Sea and Fam.”

The travel agent takeover on the Island was jointly sponsored and hosted by BPCL and the Sales Team of The Bahamas Tourist Office

(BTO), Florida, who were joined on the Island by the local stakeholders including The Bahamas Tourist Office, Grand Bahama and various Hotels and Resorts

The Fam trip included the cruise aboard the Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line from Port of Palm Beach, Florida down to Freeport Grand Bahama. There were several receptions aboard the ship and a Presentation hosted by

BPCL.

On Island in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the group took part in site inspections of those hotels that are a part of the ship's unique Cruise and Stay Program. The experience on the Island ended with a reception featuring Bahamian favorites of conch fritters and Bahama Mama drinks at the Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach Resort.

Hotels visited on the Fam trip included, The

Viva Wyndham all-inclusive Resort, The Pelican Bay Hotel, The Grand Lucayan Lighthouse Point Resort and Flamingo Bay Hotel and Taino Beach Resort.

The presentation hosted by BPCL included the sales team of the Bahamas Tourist Office and was hailed by some of the agents as one of the most important features of the fun filled weekend. Agents said that they found the presentation very educational as it provided information on all that the cruise has to offer.

Both entities in addition to thanking the large group of agents for taking part in the weekend event, also shared with them that one of the main objects of the Fam was to build relationships with them. “We need you, we can't do it without you,” Clark Reber, Director of Sales said. “Travel agents are at the heart of what we do.”

Betty Bethel, Director of Sales BTO Florida said that The Bahamas recently experienced one of its largest ever increases in visitor arrivals to the country including Grand Bahama and that 30 percent of the business to the Islands was as a result of travel agent bookings. She told the agents that the numbers to Freeport are climbing and that after the Fam, “We are looking forward to seeing another growth spurt.”

Clarke Reber shared with agents that BPCL has many best kept secrets including, “Big staterooms, lots and lots of open deck spaces, no

single supplements and even a welcome reception for solo travelers.” He added that the ship's casino is smoke free and that the cruise offer interactive programs for kids from 3 to 17 years.

The cruise line's Director of Sales also shared that the ship's demographics are millennials biased with the largest demographics being ages 24-35, and the second biggest demographics being 18-24. He did note however that while the millennials mostly dominate the weekend sailings the age 55 and above were mostly represented on the midweek sailings.

The Bahamas Paradise Cruise line is a year-round, two-night cruise that sails every day of the year from the Port of Palm Beach, Florida. The nearby airports within driving distance of the cruise port includes Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach. It was also announced during the presentation on the ship that the Cruise Line recently entered a new partnership with Florida's Brightline train system. The Cruise Line also provides valet parking

Tina Lee, District Manager, BTO Florida, said of the Fam that it was a great opportunity to work on establishing relationships.

The Fam trip is a part of the final phase of The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation's initiative against driving business to Freeport Grand Bahama. Over the past week's the Tourist Office conduct-

ed a number of Travel Agent Presentations and events throughout South Florida and Orlando, “Summertime in Freeport.”

The first Fam trip to Freeport (as a part of the initiative) took place on Balearia Caribbean Ferry the first week of June. The final Fam Trip will take place in July when travel agents will fly out of Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida via Bahamasair and stay two nights at the Grand Lucayan's Lighthouse Point Resort.

Travel agents expressed differing views on what was the highlight of the weekend but many of them spoke highly of the stop in Freeport and especially enjoying what one described as a “picture perfect day with lots of sunshine and beautiful blue skies.”

The agents who hailed mostly from parts of Florida – a few were from as far as Alabama and Mississippi - shared that they were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the cruise especially the food and the entertainment, which surpassed their expectations.

One of the agents said of the Fam that, “The weekend of activities allowed us to experience everything to equip us to be able to tell clients of this fun and easy way to enjoy both a cruise and a fun time in a tropical destination for a ‘two-for-one’ vacation experience.”

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## Construction Delays Cost Bahamians Millions

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ter of this year.”

The \$20 million contract was signed with Holiday Industrial Builders in 2014.

Then Housing Minister Shane Gibson

told a local daily that the building would house the Ministry of National Security and the administrative staff of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

He noted that the building would be complete within two years.

In his address Minister Dames noted that moving into the building could once again be delayed if the contractors encounter any unforeseen challenges in construction.